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A VARIETY OF INTERESTS IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

A radio talk by Mary Richmond, Club girl, Saginaw County, Michigan, delivered in the National 4-H Club radio program, National Farm and Home Hour, of Saturday, October 7, 1933, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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4-H Club work helps to increase the happiness of farm boys and girls. It gives us a broader and more understanding view of life.

The study of our daily food is the fundamental factor with which we may begin our training for life. The study of its preparation and preservation is very interesting, and this is the first step that 4-H Club girls take along this line. Foods and canning judging contests further emphasize practical food selection and preparation.

In the clothing judging contests in order to judge wisely, a girl must have an understanding of the principles of color and design and know when they are correctly applied, selection of material and the workmanship in the garment.

Her interest will no doubt carry her on into the Home Furnishing and Home Beautifying projects. In these she learns to appreciate and love beauty. All this requires study and genuine interest. In the study of art we find that God is the most wonderful of all artists and that He displays His handiwork through nature. To stand on a grassy knoll in autumn and see in the distance the wonderful slopes of the mountain is indeed inspiring. The beauty of the scene is wonderful as the leaves turn to red and gold and all their gay colors. It is when we begin to see beauty in the common things of life that we become more happy.

We begin our study of Art in our early projects and learn that art training helps us to build habits of clear thinking. It stimulates the powers of self-expression and self-confidence. We learn that in primitive days instinct rather than reason guided the worker as he attempted to satisfy his needs.

Today each of us may have our own style and freedom of thought as we strive to express ourselves through our work. It is quite encouraging to learn that the ability to design is not a secret that nature vouchsafed to genius alone, but is quite as much a matter of persistent work as of inheritance. This is a comforting thought especially when we are trying to make a design for a luncheon set or some other household article.

4-H members have an opportunity to exhibit their produce and attend fairs. Team demonstration of practical lessons learned is fine experience, for aside from the personal value to the girl, she is being of service to others. She meets many people and feels highly benefited by some of the contacts that she makes in the name of 4-H club work.

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If a girl is privileged to attend the National 4-H club congress, she comes in contact with many people. If the member is further privileged and is selected to represent her state at the National Club Camp in Washington, her interests are further broadened. When she returns home she is determined to be a better club member and to be of more service to others. She begins teaching her club the songs and games and other things that she learned in camp. She proved herself to be a real leader by her efforts. She becomes interested primarily in helping others to enjoy their projects and to learn more from them. She reminds them that they must work and study in order to accomplish that which is most worthwhile.

In reward for her active interest in 4-H club leadership, she may be chosen to represent her state at the International Leaders' Training School at Springfield, Massachusetts. There she meets boys and girls from many states and provinces of Canada. She becomes intimately acquainted with them in the two weeks they are together, studying leadership in work and play.

The Eastern States Exposition grounds is the home of the training school. The exposition date is included in their stay and adds much to her experiences and interests.

No doubt if a girl has such varied experiences in club work, she will be successful in her undertakings. 4-H club work teaches us to make the most of our opportunities. It gives us a desire to have a real home for ourselves in the future.